Israel for defence equipments. It is not in the interest of national security to give further details.

Equipping Jaguar with self-protection Jammer

1094. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plan of Air Force to equip the 32 Jaguar fleet with self-protection Jammer, a critical electronic warfare equipment, has been jeopardized even after an expenditure of Rs. 184 crore affecting the overall operational capacity of Air Force;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Present stage of development of AJT Aircrafts

1095. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ:
,SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present stage of development and testing of Advance Jet Trainer Aircrafts (AJTA) for Indian Air Force;

(b) when they are likely to be inducted;

(c) what is the total expected funds required and the amount spent so far; and

(d) what will be the main benefits of this AJT Aircrafts to the Indian Air Force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Various options for the acquisition of an Advanced Jet Trainer are under examination by the Government. No deal has been finalized as yet. However, Government is keen on early finalisation of the acquisition process.

(d) The Indian Air Force has identified the requirement of an

Advanced Jet Trainer for safe and smooth transition of young trainee pilots to high performance/technology aircraft in front line Squadrons.

Defence Equipment Agents

1096. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that commissions paid to defence agents shall henceforth be reflected in contracts for the purpose of defence equipment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government has so far taken or propose to take to book all the defence equipment agents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) A Comprehensive formulation of the role, if any, which Authorised Representatives/Agents employed by foreign suppliers for the promotion of their product, may legitimately be expected to play, has been receiving the attention of Government for some time. The entire policy has been extensively reviewed recently with the objective of defining the scope, extent and the conditions within which such Authorised Representatives/Agents may be allowed to represent a foreign supplier or suppliers.

It is in this context that Ministry of Defence have, on 2nd November 2001, issued comprehensive instructions relating to appointment of Indian Authorised Representative/Agents by foreign suppliers for the promotion of their product.

The instructions provide that in alt purchases affected through Indian Authorised Representative/agent of the foreign supplier, the scale of commission payable shall be determined by the Government, unambigously reflected in the contract and be as per approved guidelines. Particulars related to agency comminioa would be reported to the agencies concerned to prevent tax evasion.

The Ministry of Defence has so far not booked any person for acting as an Agent in supply of Defence Equipment.